AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying an individual in an electronic transaction, said system comprising:

[[-]] a terminal [[(10,12)]],

[[-]] an independent portable device [[(20)]] including a data processing means [[(22)]], and

[[-]] a wireless coupling means [[(RF COMMUNICATION)]] for exchanging individual-identification data between said terminal and said portable device; ~~, said system being characterised by further comprising:~~

[[-]] a body-medium communication means [[(OSC COMMUNICATION)]] including a transmitter [[(50-62)]] in the terminal and a receiver [[(26)]] in the portable device, said body-medium communication means being adapted to transmit from the terminal to the portable device a connection code [[(CONNECTION CODE)]] at the onset of a transaction upon physical contact established by the individual between the terminal and the independent portable device, and

[[-]] a control means in the independent portable device adapted to check said connection code received and conditionally issue to the terminal through said wireless coupling means [[(RF COMMUNICATION)]] a signal for enabling further execution of said transaction in response to said connection code complying with predetermined criteria.

2. (Original) The system as in claim 1, wherein said control means is further adapted to conditionally issue a signal for enabling the operation of said wireless coupling means before further execution of said transaction.

3. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 1, wherein said checking means in the independent portable device includes a biometric sensor [[(30)]] for checking biometric data of the individual upon physical contact established by the individual.

4. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 3, wherein said biometric sensor [[(30)]] is one selected from the group consisting of a fingerprint sensor, a voiceprint sensor and a subcutaneous ultrasonic sensor.

5. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 1, further comprising ~~including~~:

[[-]] a means for detecting an interruption of said physical contact established by the individual between the terminal and the independent portable device.

6. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 1, wherein said body-medium communication means [[(OSC COMMUNICATION)]] includes Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum means.

7. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 1, wherein said body-medium communication means [[(OSC COMMUNICATION)]] is a one-way communication means.

8. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 1, wherein said body-medium communication means [[(OSC COMMUNICATION)]] is a non-secure communication means.

9. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 1, wherein:

[[-]] said connection code [[(CONNECTION CODE)]] transmitted to the independent portable device includes terminal-type identification data [[(C)]],

[[-]] said control means is further adapted to check said terminal-type identification data received by the independent portable device with respect to corresponding data stored in the independent portable device, and

[[-]] said control means is further adapted to conditionally issue said signal for enabling further execution of the transaction in response to said terminal-type identification data complying with corresponding data stored in the independent portable device.

10. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 1, wherein:

[[-]] said connection code transmitted to the independent portable device includes first random data [[(B)]],

[[-]] said control means is further adapted to re-transmit said first random data to the terminal through said wireless coupling means [[(RF COMMUNICATION)]],

and the terminal is adapted to check said re-transmitted first random data with respect to said first data transmitted in the connection code.

11. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 1, wherein:

[[-]] said connection code [[(CONNECTION CODE)]] transmitted to the independent portable device includes second random data [[(A)]],

[[-]] said control means is further adapted to store said second random data received,

[[-]] the terminal is further adapted to issue a re-transmission request [[(RTSA)]] to the independent portable device through said wireless coupling means [[(RF COMMUNICATION)]],

[[-]] said control means is further adapted to re-transmit to the terminal said stored second random data upon reception of said re-transmission request, and

[[-]] the terminal is further adapted to check said re-transmitted second random data with respect to the initially transmitted second random data.

12. (Currently Amended) An independent portable device [[(20)]] ~~for use in a system according to any of claims 1-11 for~~ configured to identify[[ing]] an individual in an electronic transaction, the independent portable device comprising ~~including~~:

[[-]] a data processing means [[(22)]], and a wireless coupling means [[(RF COMMUNICATION)]] for exchanging individual-identification data with a terminal [[(10,12)]]; ~~, said portable device being characterised by further comprising:~~

[[-]] a body-medium communication receiver [[(26)]] adapted to receive from the terminal a connection code [[(CONNECTION CODE)]] at the onset of a transaction upon physical contact established by the individual between the terminal and the independent portable device, and

[[-]] a control means adapted to check said connection code received and conditionally issue a signal for enabling further execution of said transaction in response to said connection criteria complying with predetermined criteria.

13. (Currently Amended) A terminal [[(10,12)]] configured to ~~for use in a system according to any of claims 1-11 for~~ identify[[ing]] an individual in an electronic transaction, comprising ~~including~~:

[[-]] a wireless coupling means [[(RF COMMUNICATION)]] for exchanging individual identification data with an independent portable device [[(20)]], ~~said terminal being characterised by further comprising:~~

a body-medium communication transmitter adapted to transmit to the independent portable device a connection code [[(CONNECTION CODE)]] at the onset of a transaction upon physical contact established by the individual between the terminal and the independent portable device, and

[[-]] a means for receiving through said wireless coupling means a signal issued by the independent portable device for enabling further execution of said transaction in response to said connection code complying with predetermined criteria.